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PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

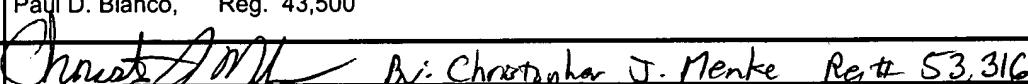
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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	09/988,954
Filing Date	November 21, 2001
First Named Inventor	P. Bonutti
Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	P. Prebilic
Attorney Docket Number	780-A02-006-11

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached (via credit card) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Copies of Claims of Co-Pending Applications, Return Postcard
Remarks		
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm or Individual name	Paul D. Bianco, Reg. 43,500	
Signature		
Date	September 23, 2004	

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Typed or printed name	Dinah Fuentes	
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Confirmation No.: 9219

Application No.: 09/988,954

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-006-11

Filed: November 21, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3738

For: TISSUE STABILIZATION METHOD

Examiner: P. Prebilic

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Introductory Comments

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed June 23, 2004, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file for the above-identified application. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Response begins on a separate sheet. Applicant submits these amendments and remarks serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.10 that the attached paper(s) or fee(s) is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Services "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"

to Mail Stop Amendment

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450

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On September 23, 2004

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